

difficult time for the families. Each one of us, I know, has had the experience of losing someone close to us and we can feel the pain of the tragedy that took place, and we want those families to know that we have not forgotten them and that we will do what we can over the years to see that they are not forgotten.

Friday, in talking with the young sons of "Gibson," as they refer to him, I can only imagine the hurt and pain that those boys 14 and 15 years old must be feeling. I say to all of us, regardless of the role that we play in the Senate or in the House, we are all one big family.

In a sense, there are many families within the family. There is the family of officers and the special grief that they must be experiencing today, as they are required to carry out their duties at a moment in which their minds and hearts must be focused on their lost officers and their families. So I ask everyone, if they would, during this day and the next several days, to pray for those families—for comfort, for love, and for hope.

Again, I can remember a particular time in which my younger brother passed away. I was so angry about his loss; people would come up to me and say, "CONNIE, time will take care, time will heal," and I was so angry I said, "I don't want it to be healed. I don't want time to take care of it. I am angry."

But I hope that the families, especially the children, will deal with those feelings inside, that they will share those thoughts to get them out so they don't carry around that hurt and that pain. We want them to know that we truly love them, that we will miss their fathers, their husbands, and we will try to make the Senate and House and the Capitol a place in which they can be proud.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, thank you very much.

#### TRIBUTE TO OFFICERS JOHN GIBSON AND J.J. CHESTNUT

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, for the past 5 years I have had the

honor of sponsoring the resolution designating National Peace Officers Memorial Day. This year we added the names of 159 officers to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Since the inception of this memorial, 14,662 peace officers have been added to the wall.

Next year, two more names will now be added to the wall. These memorials and others around the Nation serve as proof that the individuals who serve this Nation, as our guardians of peace, do so at great personal risk. There are few communities in America that have not been touched by the senseless death of a peace officer by violent means.

This community of Capitol Hill has been touched by tragedy. On Friday, two of our own, Officers John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, were felled by an assailant while they performed their duties.

America should know that for all the influence of this city and this place, this is, in some ways, like a small town. We know the people in this community as well as we know the people in our own communities back home. The employees who work here day to day become very familiar faces to those of us who are sent here temporarily by our States.

The Capitol Hill Police have a very special duty and a very special trust. They guard this place, this summit of freedom, this people's house, and keep it safe for the citizens of the world. The Capitol Hill Police perform this duty with an unwavering commitment to our safety. And they are willing, as Officers Gibson and Chestnut proved, to lay down their lives for all of our safety.

John Gibson, who I knew personally—a tremendous professional in every sense of the word. When I saw his photograph in the paper, the difference was every time that I would see John or have a word with him his face always had a smile.

J.J. Chestnut, who worked in one of the entrances to this great building, like so many of our officers, was perceived to be more than just a police officer to the wonderful citizens who come to this magnificent building. I think they sense that instead of just a police officer, they are being greeted by ambassadors in the people's house.

I believe that our Capitol Police Department exemplify the finest in America. I have never heard any statement that any of our police officers have been badge-heavy. I have simply heard great reviews of the professionals who carry the badge of the Capitol Police Department.

I know many of the Capitol Police officers personally. I have listened to stories about their families. I have seen photographs of their kids—just parent talking to parent who share a funny story or observation or simply a good word at the end of the day. But in the end, put most simply, they are here to take care of us.

As we near the end of this century, we are often impelled to observe this country is cynical. It is, I suppose, in the American character to question our condition and bemoan the things that are not now as we remember them to be. But in truth, the sacrifice of these men and their families are akin to the selfless ideal that has made this country great. The bravery and the commitment to community that these men possessed will be carried on by their families.

I have had the honor to meet with the families of slain officers from my home State. The strength and the perseverance that is exemplified by each of them is an inspiration to me.

My thoughts and prayers go out to these families and others who have been devastated by this type of senseless violence. There is no answer to the meaningless violence that occurs, but we must celebrate and memorialize the lives of the officers who serve and protect us.

To the Capitol Hill Police, I would like to simply say, I am sorry for your loss and for our loss because we are family here, to say how proud all of us are of you and to thank you for your service that you give to us each and every day, and to say to the families of Officer Gibson, Officer Chestnut: Your husband, your father, demonstrated service beyond self in the most dramatic way—by sacrificing their lives for our safety, for our freedom.

Our prayers are with John, with Officer Chestnut, with their families, and with the other officers who continue that tradition of being truly some of the finest anywhere in the Nation or the world. You are our friends, you are our guardians, so that we can do our duty here in the Nation's Capitol. God bless these two officers and God bless what they mean to all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, it has struck me often in my 10 years here in the Senate that one can look at the life we lead here in different ways. In one sense, in a sense that is most visible, we do the work of the country: We hold hearings, we meet with constituents, we legislate. This is the Congress of the United States.

But in another sense, it has struck me increasingly over the years I have been honored to be here that there is another level of experience in this Capitol, which is that we are, in our own way, a small town of our own. We are a community. Yes, we have the Members of Congress and we have all who serve in our offices so well. We have the officers of both Chambers and those who work to keep these Chambers going. But there is a broader community here that we are all part of. It is the people who keep the buildings in such good repair.

We have doctors, we have nurses, we have clergy people, we have representatives of the media who live in this community with us who cover us. We even